

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. The operative word here is "force." Journalists have been forced to ignore the body bags coming home from Iraq. No photos are to be taken. Who decided this? Did a Bush supporter contact a media corporation who then made the edict, forcing the stations to comply in order to protect their livelihoods? When a few media giants own most of the networks, they have enough power to punish those who will not comply with their wishes. When they force their political views on their stations it's propaganda. We have numerous examples in history which teach us (viz. WWII) that this is a very dangerous road to take.

As this Sinclair edit exemplifies, media ownership rules need to be reexamined and strengthened, and the licence renewal process needs to be reconstructed to include a way that those who violate the rules would be excluded. Thank you.